

æ

æ

histori æv Inglis strest vowels

ie

**A**graphic history... of .  
English stressed vowels

æ græfik

421.2  
M133g

• GEORGE • S • McCUE •

UNIVERSITY  
OF FLORIDA  
LIBRARIES



# *A<sup>G</sup>raphic history . . of . English stressed vowels*

GEORGE S. McCUE<sup>6</sup>

## FOREWORD

This handbook is intended for those who through love of linguistics are eager to learn, or through force of circumstances are obliged to learn, the development of English vowels in accented syllables. It is designed for students of Middle English, Old English, or Gothic, as well as for teachers of courses in the history of the English language. He who learns by eye should be greatly helped by the diagrams.

In linguistics, to be sure, the eye can give only limited help; language should be heard rather than seen. For that reason, all vowels are recorded in phonetic symbols. A broad system of transcription has been employed, because the precise nature of early pronunciation is beyond conjecture.

Pruning was necessary to keep the family trees of these vowels within bounds. Excisions include late Germanic cognates, importations from Scandinavian and French, and special East Midland contributions.

*A Graphic History* should be used in connection with a good grammar. Further explication can be found in the works of Brugmann, Buck, Hirt, Jespersen, Wright, and Wyld.

GEORGE S. McCUE  
The Colorado College

ALAN SWALLOW, Publisher

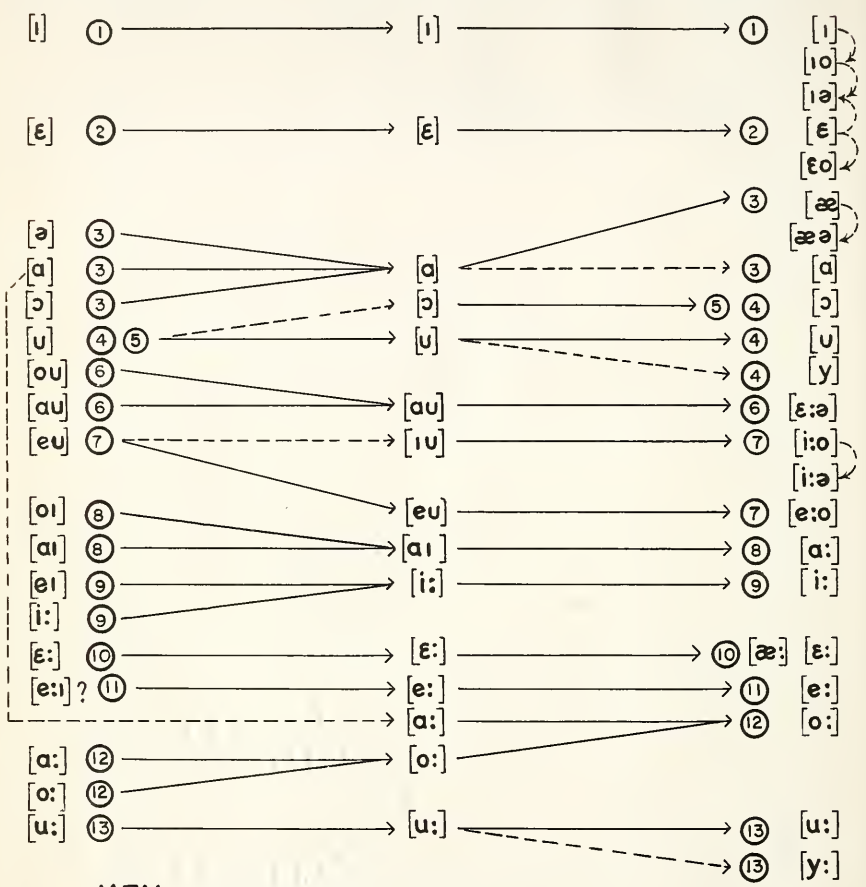
Copyright 1958 by George S. McCue



421.2  
M1330x

# SUMMARY OF IE-OE VOWEL CHANGES

**IE** had these vowels and diphthongs:      They appear as these sounds in **PG**:      They appear in **OE** as these sounds:



**KEY** Main development —————→  
 Development under special conditions - - - - -→  
 ○ Plate number

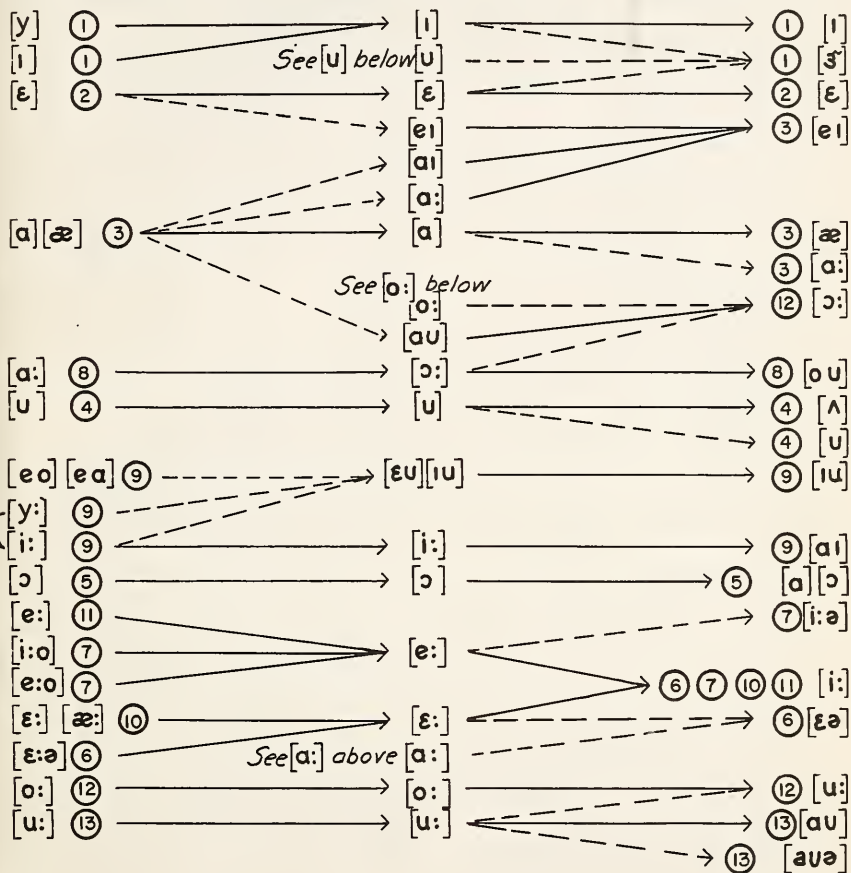
## SUMMARY OF OE-NE VOWEL CHANGES

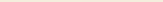
Note: Quantitative changes (like [i:] > [ɪ]) are not recorded here

**OE** had these vowels and diphthongs:

*They appear as  
these sounds in ME:*

They appear in NE  
as these sounds:



**KEY** *Main development* 

*Development under special conditions* ———→

○ = Plate number

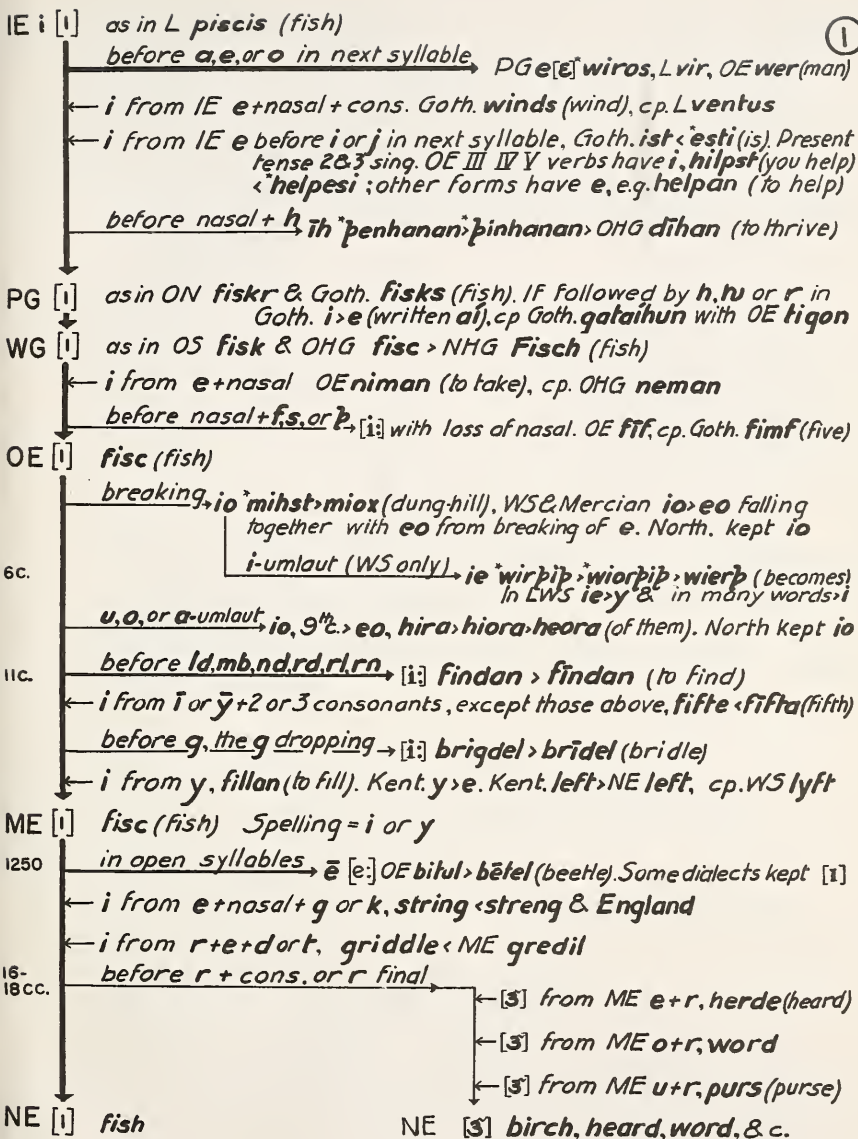
## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

<b>SIGNS</b>	* <i>conjectured form</i>
	< <i>comes from</i>
	> <i>gives</i>

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[ɑ:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above	sound	prolonged
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[e]	"	e	"	set
[e:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ:]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but



## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

<b>SIGNS</b>	* <i>conjectured form</i>
	< <i>comes from</i>
	> <i>gives</i>

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[ɑ:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above		sound prolonged
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[ɛ]	"	e	"	set
[ɛ:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but



IE **e** [e] as in L **ferō** (to bear)

← **e** from **i** before **a, e, or o** in next syllable, OE **wer** < \***wiros** (man) cp. L **vir**  
 before nasal + cons. → **i**, IE \***wentas** (cp. L **ventus**) > Goth. **winds** (wind)  
 before **i** or **j** in next syllable → **i**, IE \***esti** > Goth. **ist** (is)

PG **[e]** as in ON **bera** (to bear). In Goth. > **i**, **itan** (to eat) cp. L **edo**. If followed by **h, hr** or **r**, **i** > **e** (written **ai**), cp. **bafran** & OE **beran**

WG **[e]** as in OS **beran** & OHG **beran** (to bear)

before a nasal → **i**, OE **niman** (to take) cp. OHG **neman**

OE **[e]** **beran** (to bear)

breaking → **eo**, \***erpe** > **eorpe** (earth). In 12 & 13 cc. in the West, **eo** monophthongized & rounded (written **o, eo, u, uy** & c). In the E, **eo** > **e**

6c. after palatal **g, c, sc** (WS only) → **je** (later **y** & **i**) \***gefān** > WS **giefan** (to give)

← **e** from **i**-umlaut of **æ**, **bedd** < \***bædi** < **badi** (bed)

← **e** from **i**-umlaut of **o**, **dehter** < \***dohtri** (daughter)

**u, o, a**-umlaut (rare in WS) → **eo**, **herut**, **heorot** (hart). Later, **eo** > **e**

before **w** → **eo**, **strewede** > **streowede** (he strewed). Later, **eo** > **e**

at end of monosyllabic words → **ē** [e:] **he** > **hē** [he:], **we** > **wē**, etc.

before **g** (the **g** > **i**) → **e** OE **weg** > ME **wei** (way)

11c. before **ld, mb, rd, rl, rn** → **ē** [e:] **feld** > ME **fēld** (field)

← **e** from **ē** [e:] or **æ** [æ:] + 2 or 3 consonants, except those above;  
**kepte** < \***cēpte** (he kept); **ledde** < OE **lædde** (led)

ME **[e]** **beren** (to bear), **helpen** (to help)

1250 in open syllables, **ē** [e:] **bere** > **bēre** (to bear), **mete** > **mēt** (meat)

**e** from **eo** above

before nasal + **g** or **k** → **i** OE **streng** > **string**

**r + e + d** or **t** → **i** ME **gredil** > NE **griddle**

before **r** → **[ɜ]** ME **herde** > NE **heard**

← **e** from many shortened **[e]**'s **bread** < **brēd**, **deaf**, **threat**, etc.

NE **[e]** **help** This sound is frequently spelled **ea**, **health**, **breast**, etc.

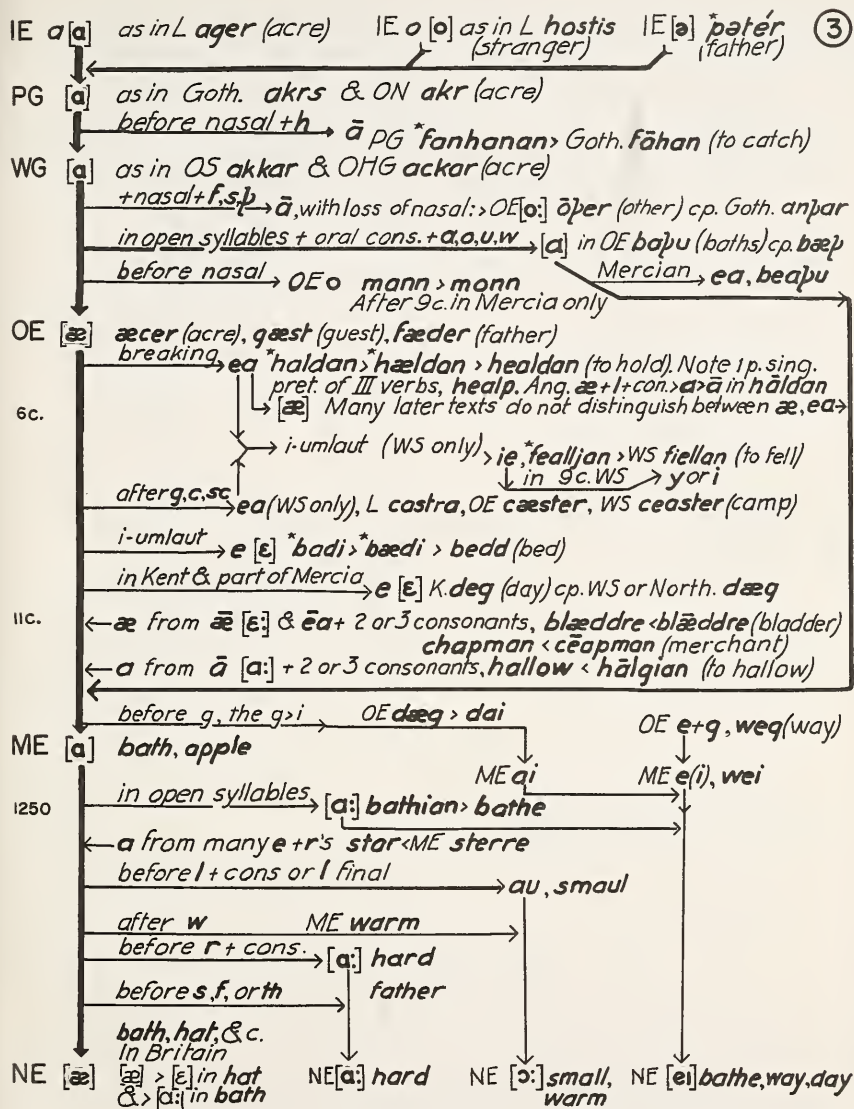
## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

<b>SIGNS</b>	* <i>conjectured form</i>
	< <i>comes from</i>
	> <i>gives</i>

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[ɑ:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above		sound prolonged
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[ɛ]	"	e	"	set
[e:]	"	ai	"	fair
[ɐ]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but



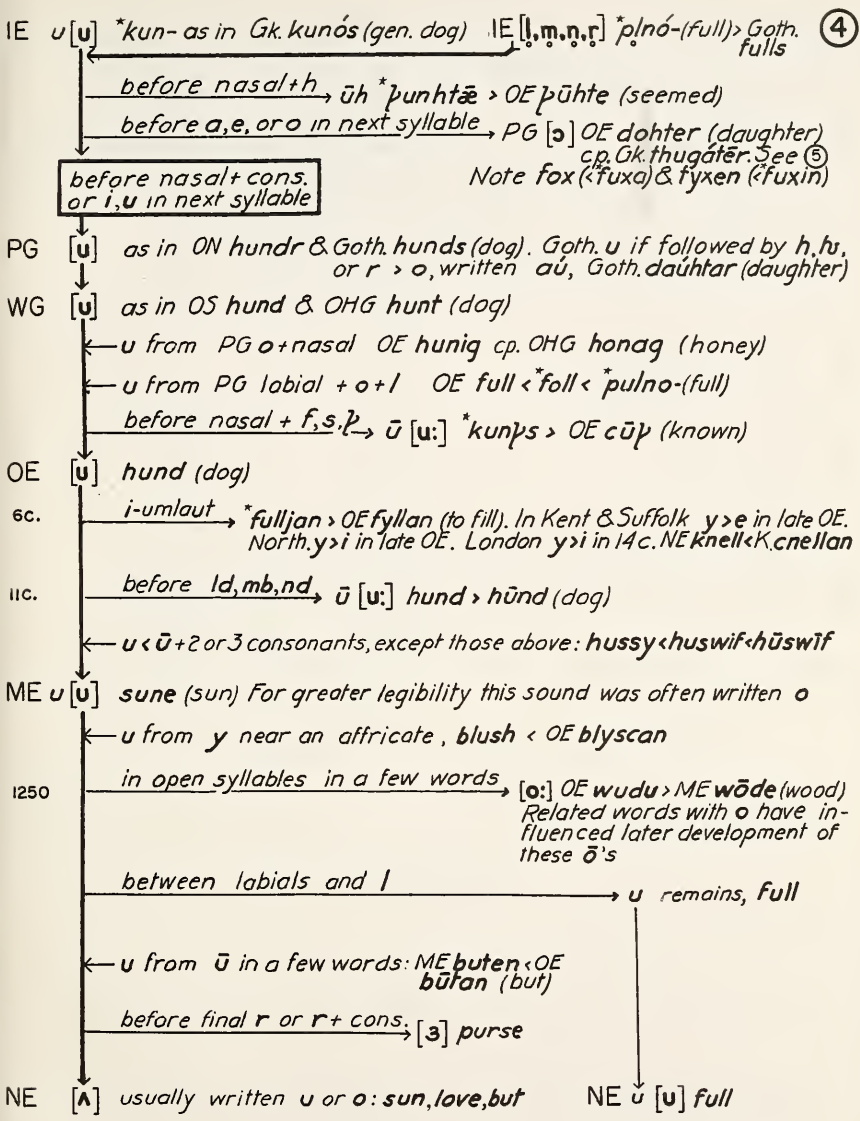
## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

<b>SIGNS</b>	* <i>conjectured form</i>
	< <i>comes from</i>
	> <i>gives</i>

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o in	not, fodder
[a:]	"	a "	father
[æ]	"	a "	hat
[æ:]	the	above	sound prolonged
[ai]	like	i in	ice
[au]	"	ou "	house
[e]	"	e "	set
[e:]	"	ai "	fair
[e]	"	a "	fate
[ei]	"	a "	ale
[i]	"	i "	sit
[i:]	"	e "	be
[iu]	"	u "	mute
[o]	"	o "	vocation
[o:]	"	o "	note
[ou]	"	o "	go
[u]	"	u "	pull
[u:]	"	oo "	pool
[y]	"	ü "	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh "	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a "	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au "	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw "	awe
[ɜ]	"	i "	birch
[ʌ]	"	u "	but





## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

## SIGNS

- \* *conjectured form*
- < *comes from*
- > *gives*

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[ɑ:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above		sound prolonged
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[ɛ]	"	e	"	set
[ɛ:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but

IE **u** [u] as in Gk. *thugátēr* (daughter)

before nasal + cons. or **i, u** in next syllable →

remained [u]  
OE *hund* < \**kun-*  
See ④

before **a, e, o** in next syllable

PG **o** [ɔ] as in ON *o*, \**dohter* > *dötter* (daughter). In Goth. *o*, (written *au* if followed by *h, hv* or *r*: *daúhtar* (daughter); otherwise PG *o* > Goth. *u*, cp. *hulpans* & OE *geholpen* (helped). Note that IE *u* was sole source of PG *o*, IE *o* having become PG *a*. See ③

WG [ɔ] as in OS *dohter* & OHG *tohter* (daughter)

before a nasal → **u**, OE *hunig* cp. OHG *honag* (honey)

labial + **o** + **l** → **u** PG \**fol* > OE *full*

OE **o** [ɔ]. *dohtor* (daughter), *pott* (pot)

6c. *seeming i-umlaut*  
(not in North) → **e** [ɛ] \**dohtri* (dative) > *dehter*. This is not real umlaut, for PG *o* existed only when **a, o** or **e** followed. These **e**'s came from levelling & analogy. Dative \**duhtri* > *dyhter*. \**dohtri* was levelled < nom. *dohtor*

← **o** from **a** + nasal, *monn* < *mann* (man). After 9c. in Mercia only.

11c. before **ld, mb, nd, rd** → **ō** [o:] *hord* > *hōrd* (hoard)

← **o** < **ō** + 2 or 3 consonants, except those above: *softe* < *sōfte* (soft)

ME **o** [ɔ] *oxe* (ox), *pot*

in open syllables → **ō** [ɔ:] See ⑧  
*hopa* > *hōpe*

before **ng** → **ō** [ɔ:] *long* > *lōng* →

**o** + **r** → **ō** [ɔ:] *north* > *nōrth* →

NE **o** [a] *ox, pot* & c. Note use of [ɔ] in Gt. Britain. [ɔks] [pɔt]

ME [au] < OE **a** + **g** or **f** + back vowel, *sawe* < *sagu* (saw); *hawk* < *havok* (hawk)

← < **a** + **l** + cons. or **l** final, *small*

← < **a** after **w**, *warm*

NE [ɔ:] *hawk, saw, warm*

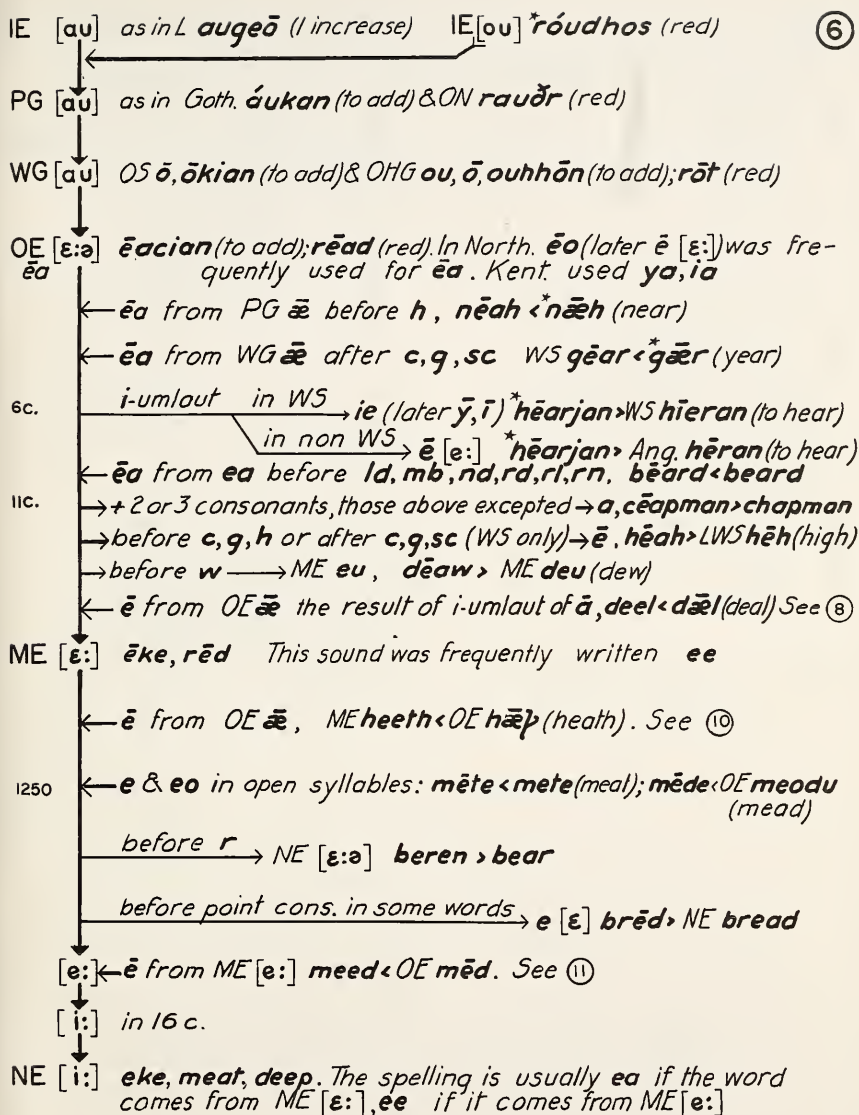
## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

<b>SIGNS</b>	* <i>conjectured form</i>
	< <i>comes from</i>
	> <i>gives</i>

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[ɑ:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above		sound prolonged
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[ɛ]	"	e	"	set
[ɛ:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but



## ABBREVIATIONS

Ang.	Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)
c.	century
cp.	compare
cons.	consonant
G	German
Gk.	Greek (including Doric dialect)
Goth.	Gothic
IE	Indo-European
Kent.	Kentish
L	Latin
LWS	Late West Saxon
ME	Middle English
NE	New (Modern) English
NHG	New High German
North.	Northumbrian
OE	Old English
OHG	Old High German
ON	Old Norse
OS	Old Saxon
PG	Proto-Germanic
WG	West Germanic
WS	West Saxon

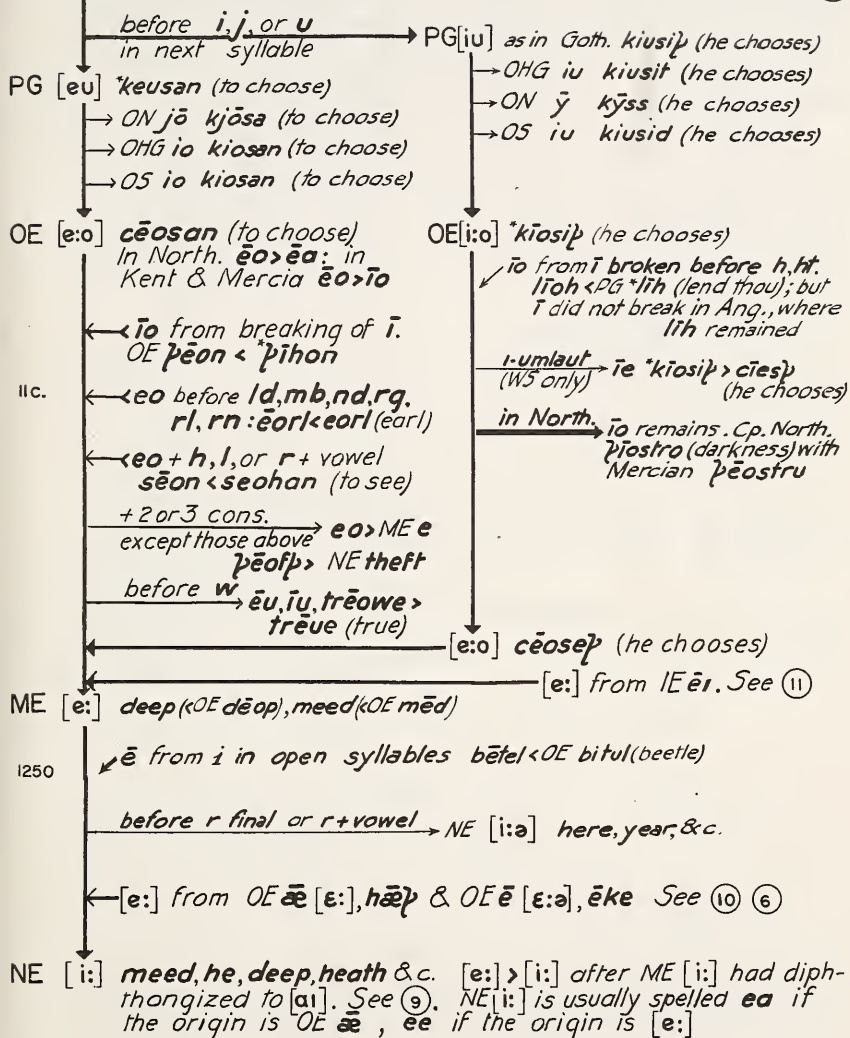
SIGNS	* conjectured form
	< comes from
	> gives

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[ɑ:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above	sound prolonged	
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[ɛ]	"	e	"	set
[ɛ:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but



IE [eu] as in Gk. *geúō* (I give a taste of)



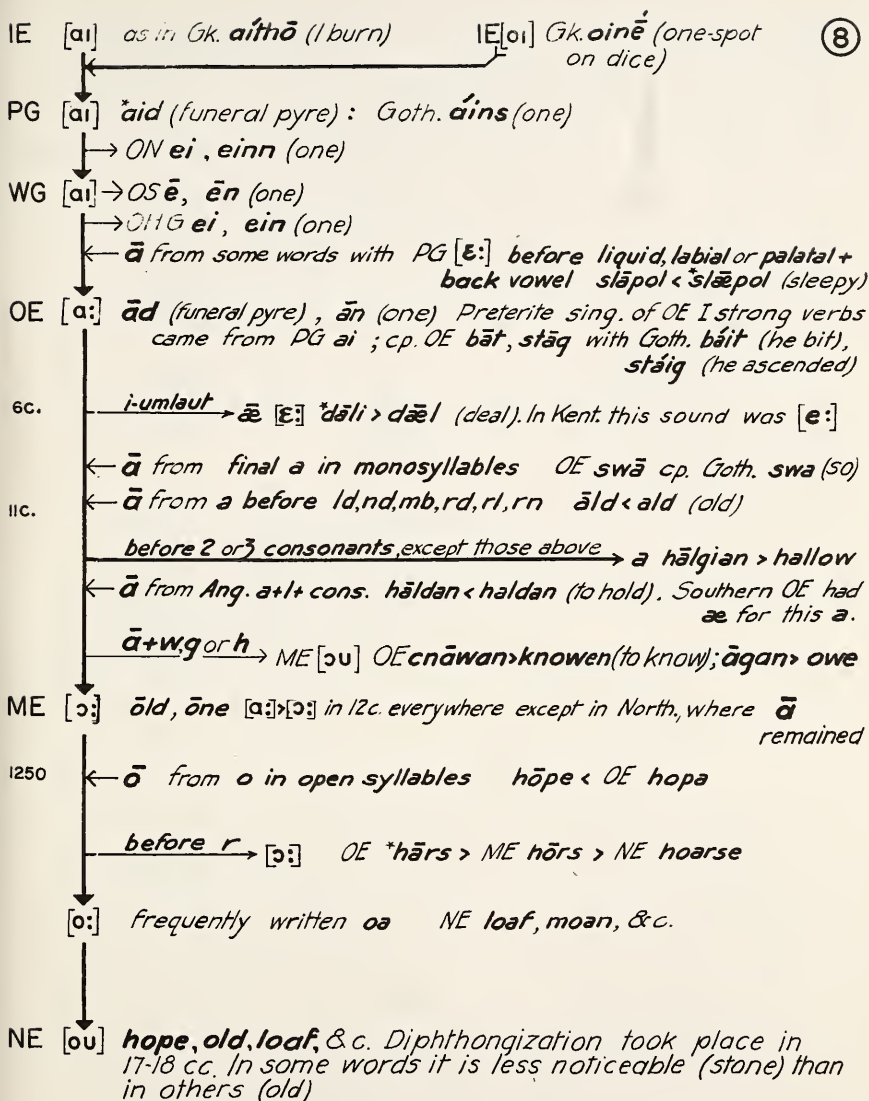
## ABBREVIATIONS

*Ang.* *Anglia* (*Northumbria, Mercia*)  
*c.* *century*  
*cp.* *compare*  
*cons.* *consonant*  
*G* *German*  
*Gk.* *Greek* (including *Doric dialect*)  
*Goth.* *Gothic*  
*IE* *Indo-European*  
*Kent.* *Kentish*  
*L* *Latin*  
*LWS* *Late West Saxon*  
*ME* *Middle English*  
*NE* *New (Modern) English*  
*NHG* *New High German*  
*North.* *Northumbrian*  
*OE* *Old English*  
*OHG* *Old High German*  
*ON* *Old Norse*  
*OS* *Old Saxon*  
*PG* *Proto-Germanic*  
*WG* *West Germanic*  
*WS* *West Saxon*

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[a:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above	sound	prolonged
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[e]	"	e	"	set
[e:]	"	ai	"	fair
[ɛ]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	<i>G. müssen</i>
[y:]	"	üh	"	<i>G. kühn</i>
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but

**SIGNS**    \* *conjectured form*  
              < *comes from*  
              > *gives*



## ABBREVIATIONS

*Ang.* *Anglia* (*Northumbria, Mercia*)  
*c.* *century*  
*cp.* *compare*  
*cons.* *consonant*  
*G* *German*  
*Gk.* *Greek* (*including Doric dialect*)  
*Goth.* *Gothic*  
*IE* *Indo-European*  
*Kent.* *Kentish*  
*L* *Latin*  
*LWS* *Late West Saxon*  
*ME* *Middle English*  
*NE* *New (Modern) English*  
*NHG* *New High German*  
*North.* *Northumbrian*  
*OE* *Old English*  
*OHG* *Old High German*  
*ON* *Old Norse*  
*OS* *Old Saxon*  
*PG* *Proto-Germanic*  
*WG* *West Germanic*  
*WS* *West Saxon*

**SIGNS**    \* *conjectured form*  
              < *comes from*  
              > *gives*

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[ɑ:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above	sound prolonged	
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[ɛ]	"	e	"	set
[ɛ:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. <i>müssen</i>
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. <i>kühn</i>
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but





## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

<b>SIGNS</b>	* <i>conjectured form</i>
	< <i>comes from</i>
	> <i>gives</i>

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o in	not, fodder
[a:]	"	a "	father
[æ]	"	a "	hat
[æ:]	the	above	sound prolonged
[ai]	like	i in	ice
[au]	"	ou "	house
[ɛ]	"	e "	set
[ɛ:]	"	ai "	fair
[e]	"	a "	fate
[ei]	"	a "	ale
[i]	"	i "	sit
[i:]	"	e "	be
[iu]	"	u "	mute
[o]	"	o "	vocation
[o:]	"	o "	note
[ou]	"	o "	go
[u]	"	u "	pull
[u:]	"	oo "	pool
[y]	"	ü "	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh "	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a "	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au "	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw "	awe
[ɜ]	"	i "	birch
[ʌ]	"	u "	but

E ē [ɛ:] as in Gk. **mēn** (month). Some texts label this sound ē<sup>2</sup> or ȳ and call it open or slack ē. ⑩

PG æ [ɛ:] or [æ:] See comment on OE æ below

→ Goth. [e:] **mēna** (moon), **ētum** (we ate), cp. L **ēdimus**. This [ɛ:] and PG [e:] fell together in Goth. See ⑪

→ ON **ā**, **māne** (moon); **ātum** (we ate)

WG [a:] as in OS **māno**, **ātun** & OHG **māno** (moon); **āzum** (we ate)

+ a liquid, labial or palatal + back vowel → OE **ā**, **\*slæpol** > **slāpol** (sleepy)

before a nasal → **ō**, **\*mænoþ** > OE **mōnaþ** (month)

OE **æ** [ɛ:] or [æ:] **æton** (we ate), **sæ** (sea). The pronunciation of OE **æ** [ɛ:] is open to question. Many authorities prefer a lower (more open) sound like the [æ] of "hat" or "harry" prolonged [æ:]

breaking before **h** in WS → **ēa**, **\*næh** > **nēah** (near)

in Ang. & Kent → [e:] **ēton** (we ate)

in WS after palatal **g, c**, or **sc** → **ēa**, **\*gæer** > **gēar** WS (year)

6c.

i-umlaut → **īe**, **\*cēasi** > **ciese** (cheese)

← **æ** < i-umlaut of **ā**, **dæl** < **\*dāli** (deal)

← **æ** < **æ + g + cons**, **sæde** < **sægde** (he said)

11c.

before 2 or 3 consonants → **a** or **e**, OE **blæddre** > **bladder**  
OE **lædde** > **ledde** (led)

ME [ɛ:] **heath** (heath), **deel** (deal), **see** (sea), [ɛ:] was usually written **ee**. The raising of ME [ɛ:] > [e:] is given in full on ⑥

← **ē** from ME [e:], **meed** < OE **mēd**. See ⑦

[e:]

[i:] in 16 c.

NE

[i:] **heath**, **sea**, &c. The spelling is usually **ea** if the word comes from ME [ɛ:], **ee** if it comes from ME [e:], **meed**. See ⑦

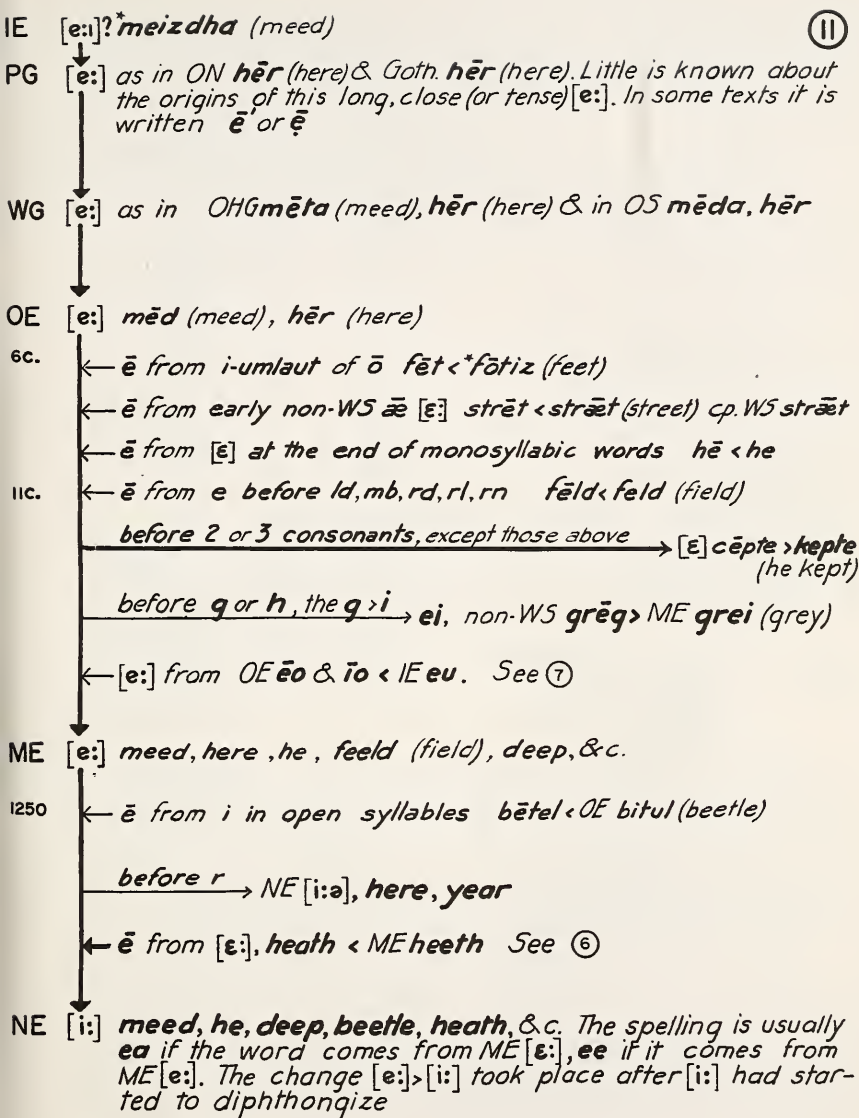
## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

<b>SIGNS</b>	* <i>conjectured form</i>
	< <i>comes from</i>
	> <i>gives</i>

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[a:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above	sound	prolonge
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[e]	"	e	"	set
[e:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but



## ABBREVIATIONS

Ang.	Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)
c.	century
cp.	compare
cons.	consonant
G	German
Gk.	Greek (including Doric dialect)
Goth.	Gothic
IE	Indo-European
Kent.	Kentish
L	Latin
LWS	Late West Saxon
ME	Middle English
NE	New (Modern) English
NHG	New High German
North.	Northumbrian
OE	Old English
OHG	Old High German
ON	Old Norse
OS	Old Saxon
PG	Proto-Germanic
WG	West Germanic
WS	West Saxon

SIGNS	* conjectured form
	< comes from
	> gives

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[a:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above		sound prolonged
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[ɛ]	"	e	"	set
[e:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but



IE  $\bar{o}$  [o:] as in Gk. *pōs* (foot)      IE  $\bar{a}$  [a:] as in L *māter* (mother) ⑫

PG [ō:] as in Goth. *fōtus* (foot) & ON *fōtr* (foot), *mōþir* (mother)

WG [ō:] as in OS *fōt* (foot), *mōdar* (mother)

→ OHG *uo*, *muoter* (mother); *fuoz* (foot) > NHG *ū*, *Füss*

*i*-umlaut → MHG *üe* > NHG *ü*, *Füsse* (feet)

←  $\bar{o}$  < PG  $\bar{a}$  (< IE *a* + nasal + *h*), OE *fōn* cp. Goth. *fāhan* (to catch)

←  $\bar{o}$  < WG  $\bar{a}$  + nasal, OE *mōnaþ* cp. OHG *mānot* (month)

←  $\bar{o}$  < WG *a* + nasal + *s, f*, or *þ*, OE *gōs* cp. OHG *gans* (goose)

OE [o:] *fōt* (foot), *mōdor* (mother), *fōn* (to catch)

6c. *i*-umlaut → [e:] PG *\*fōtiz* > OE *fēt* (feet). This sound-change had an intermediate stage, *ōē*, which was retained in, & was typical of, Ang. & Kent. Ang. *fōet* (feet)

11c. ←  $\bar{o}$  from *o* before *ld, mb, nd, rd, rl, rn* *hōrd* < *hord* (hoard)  
+ 2 or 3 consonants, except those above → *o*, *sōfte* > *softe* (soft)

←  $\bar{o}$  from *w* +  $\bar{a}$ , *swoop* < OE *swāpan*

before *h* → ME *ū*, OE *plōh* > ME *plūh* (plough)

ME [o:] *fōt*, *swoop*. Often written, *oo* in ME & NE, [o:] was a tense (close) vowel, recorded  $\bar{o}$  or  $\bar{ō}$  in some texts. The other ME  $\bar{o}$  (from OE  $\bar{a}$ ; see ⑧) was an open (slack) vowel, sometimes recorded as  $\bar{o}^*$  or  $\bar{ō}$ . This sound is usually spelled *oa* in NE

1250 ←  $\bar{o}$  < *u* in open syllables in a few words, *wōde* < OE *wudu* (wood); *dōre* < OE *duru* (door); *lōve* < OE *lufu*. Related words with short vowels have played havoc (by analogy) with the later development of these  $\bar{o}$ 's

before *r* → NE [ɔ:] *dōre* > NE *door*

irregularly near labials

+ *k* & irregularly before *d&t* → *u* > [ʌ], *blood*; *flood*

→ *u*, *rook* < OE *hrōc*; *foot*

← < ME  $\bar{u}$  + *w* or after labials, NE *droop* < *drūp*; NE *wound* < ME *wūnd*

NE [u:] *swoop*, *droop*, *wound*. The [o:] > [u:] in 15-16 cc.

## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Anglia (Northumbria, Mercia)</i>
<i>c.</i>	<i>century</i>
<i>cp.</i>	<i>compare</i>
<i>cons.</i>	<i>consonant</i>
<i>G</i>	<i>German</i>
<i>Gk.</i>	<i>Greek (including Doric dialect)</i>
<i>Goth.</i>	<i>Gothic</i>
<i>IE</i>	<i>Indo-European</i>
<i>Kent.</i>	<i>Kentish</i>
<i>L</i>	<i>Latin</i>
<i>LWS</i>	<i>Late West Saxon</i>
<i>ME</i>	<i>Middle English</i>
<i>NE</i>	<i>New (Modern) English</i>
<i>NHG</i>	<i>New High German</i>
<i>North.</i>	<i>Northumbrian</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>Old English</i>
<i>OHG</i>	<i>Old High German</i>
<i>ON</i>	<i>Old Norse</i>
<i>OS</i>	<i>Old Saxon</i>
<i>PG</i>	<i>Proto-Germanic</i>
<i>WG</i>	<i>West Germanic</i>
<i>WS</i>	<i>West Saxon</i>

## SIGNS

- \* *conjectured form*
- < *comes from*
- > *gives*

## PRONUNCIATION KEY

[a]	like	o	in	not, fodder
[a:]	"	a	"	father
[æ]	"	a	"	hat
[æ:]	the	above		sound prolonged
[ai]	like	i	in	ice
[au]	"	ou	"	house
[e]	"	e	"	set
[e:]	"	ai	"	fair
[e]	"	a	"	fate
[ei]	"	a	"	ale
[i]	"	i	"	sit
[i:]	"	e	"	be
[iu]	"	u	"	mute
[o]	"	o	"	vocation
[o:]	"	o	"	note
[ou]	"	o	"	go
[u]	"	u	"	pull
[u:]	"	oo	"	pool
[y]	"	ü	"	G. müssen
[y:]	"	üh	"	G. kühn
[ə]	"	a	"	Cuba
[ɔ]	"	au	"	audacious
[ɔ:]	"	aw	"	awe
[ɜ]	"	i	"	birch
[ʌ]	"	u	"	but

IE  $\bar{u}$  [u:] as in L *pūteō* (I stink)

←  $\bar{u}$  from IE *u* + nasal + *h* OE *þūhte* (it seemed) < PG *\*þunhtā*

PG [u:] as in Goth. *fūls*, *hūs* & ON *füll* (foul), *hūs* (house)

WG [u:] as in OS & OHG *hūs* (house)

←  $\bar{u}$  from *u* + nasal + *f, s* or *þ*, OE *cūþ* < PG *\*kunþs* (known)

OE [u:] *fūl* (foul), *þūhte* (it seemed), *hūs* (house)

6c.  $\bar{u}$  from *u* + nasal + *f, s* or *þ* → *ī* *\*mūsiz* > *mȳs* (mice). In the Southeast of England, including Kent, this [y:] > [e:] in 9c. Kent *mēs* (mice)  
unrounding → *ī*, *mȳs* > *mīs* (mice). Unrounding in 10c. in North; as late as 15c. in parts of the Midlands

←  $\bar{u}$  from *u* before *ld, lh, mb, nd, rh* *hūnd* < *hund* (dog)

11c. + 2 or 3 consonants, except those above → *u*, *hūs wif*, *hus wif* > *hussif*, *hussy* (housewife)

←  $\bar{u}$  from OE *ōg*, *ōh* ME *plūh* < *plōh* (plough)

ME [u:] *foul*, *hous* (house)

before labials or after *w*

16c. [ou] →  $\bar{u}$  remains, NE *droop*

[au]

+ final *r* → [auə] NE *hour*, *flour*

before *r* + cons. → [ɔ:] ME *mūrnen* > NE *mourn*

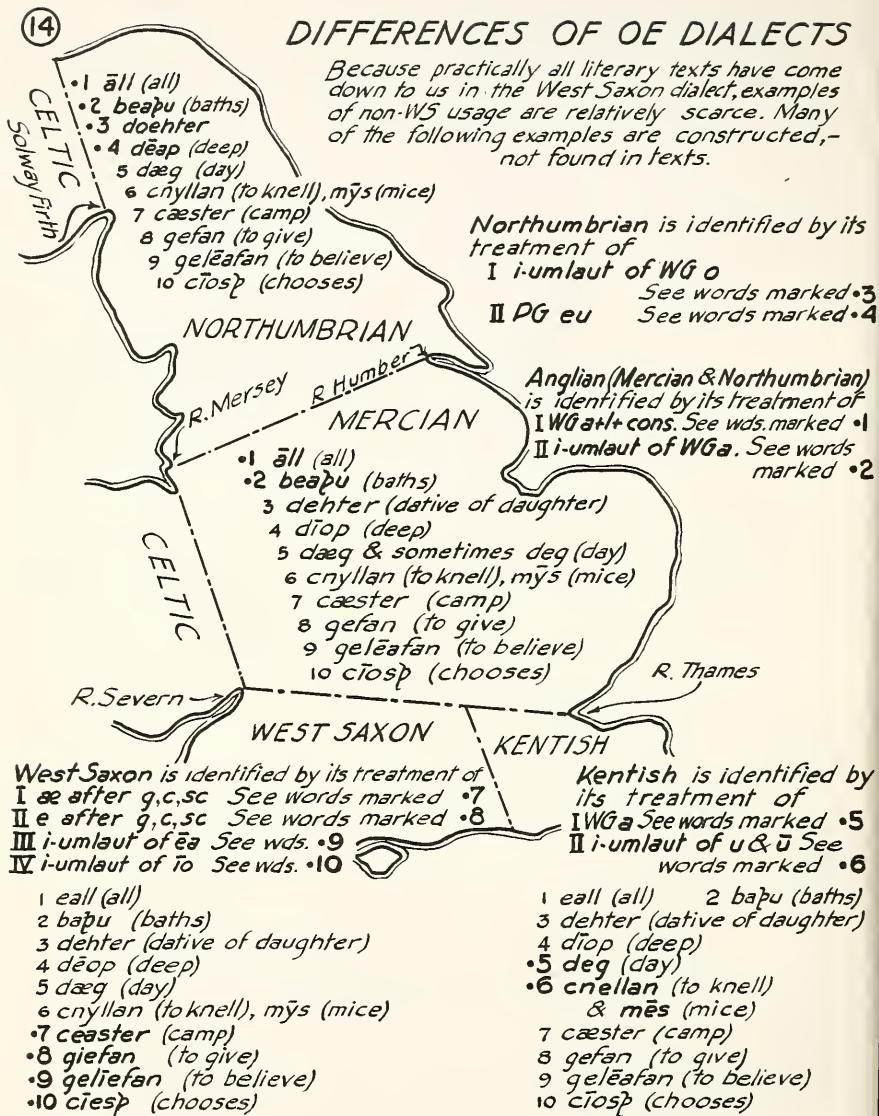
←  $\bar{u}$  from OE [o:] See 12

NE [au] *foul*, *mouse*, *hound* NE [ɔ:] *mourn* See 3

NE [u:] *droop*, *stoop*

## DIFFERENCES OF OE DIALECTS

Because practically all literary texts have come down to us in the West Saxon dialect, examples of non-WS usage are relatively scarce. Many of the following examples are constructed, - not found in texts.



# DIFFERENCES OF ME DIALECTS

Differentiation of Middle English dialects by accent, vocabulary, & consonant changes is often easier than by vowel changes. Only a few characteristic vowels are given here. Variations within a district were numerous; boundaries of districts were not exact.

Firth of Forth

NORTHERN

Solway Firth

- 1 m[ɑ:]r, later m[ɛ:]r (more)
- 2 s[y:]th (sooth)
- 3 f[i:]r (fire)
- 4 th[ɑ:]t (that)
- 5 h[ɛ:]r (to hear)

Northern is identified by its treatment of

I OE [ɑ:] See words marked •1

II OE [ɔ:] See words marked •2

Humber Estuary

MIDLAND

Midland texts show the great variety of pronunciations in this district. Forms used in the East Midlands were most influential & are considered normal ME

- 1 m[ɔ:]r (more)
- 2 s[ɔ:]th (sooth)
- 3 f[i:]r (fire)
- 4 th[ɑ:]t (that)
- 5 h[ɛ:]r-en (to hear)

CELTIC

R. Severn

SOUTHWESTERN

Southwestern is identified by its treatment of

I OE [y:] See words marked •3

II OE [i:], a distinctive WS sound  
See words marked •5

- 1 m[ɔ:]r (more)
- 2 s[ɔ:]th (sooth)
- 3 f[i:]r (fire)
- 4 th[ɑ:]t (that)
- 5 h[y:]re, or h[i:]re (to hear)

London used (1100-1250) an amalgam of Southern OE dialects (WS & Kent). After 1300 London used increasingly the East Midland dialect.

SOUTHEASTERN

Southeastern (including Kent) is identified by its treatment of

I OE [y:] See words marked •3

II OE [æ] See words marked •4

- 1 m[ɔ:]r (more)
- 2 z[ɔ:]th (sooth)
- 3 v[ɛ:]r (fire)
- 4 th[ɛ:]t (that)
- 5 h[ɛ:]re (to hear)

# SPECIAL VOWEL RELATIONSHIPS. ABLAUT OR VOWEL GRADATION

The most important manifestation of ablaut is seen in the following (e) set of variations. No one root shows all grades; a hypothetical root (\*) is used below for a complete paradigm. Stress = ; place of ablaut = ^

Grade:	Strong, or Normal	Reduced	Zero	Lengthened
*Examp.	*fēgs	*fōgs	*fāgs	*fōgs
IE examp.	Gk. pētōmai (to fly)	Gk. pētē	Gk. pēteron	Gk. pētēma
	L. pēdis (foot)		L. pēs	Doric, pōs
	→ +i	ei	oi	
	Gk. pēipō	ēleipō (have left)	ou	
	→ +u	eu	u	
	Gk. pēthōmai			
	speūdō (hasten)			
P Gm̃c.	*fēti			
Examp.	from Goth.			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
OE examp.	→ +i			
(measure)	→ +u			
Class V	→ +i			
verbs	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			
	→ +i			
	→ +u			







4-1-12  
M133g

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



3 1262 04792 3486

